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Jewish War Veterans to be Recognized at JHSMM Operation Benjamin Program



Jewish War Veterans at the 2024 Yom HaShoah Program hosted by Memphis Jewish Federation.

The Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South (JHSMM) will recognize Jewish War Veterans at the Sumner Levine Speakers Series highlighting Operation Benjamin at 2

p.m., Sunday, November 17, 2024, at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. The Society will pay tribute to those in attendance who have served in the American Armed Services and have contribut-

ed to the safety of the United States.

Rabbi Brett Oxman, who has been a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force and heads Cpl. Harry Washer # 121 of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. has also extended a special invitation to its members to come out for this event. People can bring in the names of their loved ones who have served, so that JHSMM will have an historical record for the future.

The entire community is invited to hear about the important work of Operation Benjamin (OB), which is composed of amazing leaders, passionate volunteers and professionals, dedicated to correcting errors made in marking the graves of America's fallen Jewish soldiers.

Rabbi Akiva Males of Young Israel and Advisory Board member of OB will be the guest speaker along with Jeanne and Dr. Bruce Alpert who will share their moving story about how Operation Benjamin discovered what happened to Jeanne's uncle, Lt. Joseph M. Sugarman Jr., a soldier killed during World War II. Two videos entitled "American Battle Monuments 100th Anniversary" and

"The Story of Lt. Nathan Baskind" will also be shown.

Rabbi Males is a prolific writer and the author of the significant essay, "Jewish GIs and Their Dog Tags," that appeared in the journal "Hakirah," in the summer of 2013. The article is an exploration of the choices WWII Jewish American GIs made in deciding whether to identify themselves as Jews on their dog tags during the war."

Among his many honors and responsibilities, Dr. Alpert has been a UTHSC endowed chair professor, director of the Pediatric Clinical Research Center and director of UTHSC General Clinical Research Center. In 2024, he received the honor of a named lectureship at the Pediatric Exercise Society, for which he serves as treasurer.

Mrs. Jeanne Alpert worked at Temple Israel Pre-school for 35 years and is now retired. She has also been a MIFA volunteer for over 25 years and loves spending time with her 10 grandchildren.

Refreshments will be served after the program. **HW**

Building Joy and Resilience: A Season of Reflection, Connection and Hope at Bornblum



In celebration of the Holy Days, Bornblum Jewish Community Second Graders visited Junior-K students from Memphis Jewish Community Center's Early Childhood Center to color in Simchat Torah flags and shake the lulav and etrog.

By Michal Almalem

Celebrating the High Holy Days at Bornblum is always meaningful, but this year carried even greater intention and greater responsibility. Celebrating this

year had to be about more than beautifying our Rosh Hashanah tables with ceramic art made in the Hornik Family Pottery Lab or performing Tashlich at

the Wolf River or on the giant map of Israel. It had to be about more than our annual Seders, baking round challahs, building the Sukkah, or acting out the holy Ushpizin (guests) for our younger students with riddles and prizes. It had to be about reflection, connection and hope.

Driven by the ongoing war and the ever-increasing antisemitism around the world, our team felt a deeper mission – to make extra effort to equip our students with the values these holidays inspire, helping our students to become their best selves and work together to strengthen Am Yisrael (the People of Israel). We had to be intentional and use our activities and prayers to emphasize our collective responsibility for one another.

We wrote Shana Tova cards to our twin community in Shoham, Israel. Students wrote personal prayers for Israel, their families and community, and after placing them on our little version of the western wall, all prayers were sent to the real one in Jerusalem.

We reached beyond ourselves to share our celebration of Simchat Torah with

young children at the MJCC's ECD crafting flags, singing songs and telling stories. Kitah Vav (6th grade) led a program at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, where they taught the residents about each of the fall holidays. Together with the residents they crafted plates with holiday symbols, shook the lulav and sang contemporary songs.

Our MJCC Shlichah, Tal Nizri, led a session about which Ushpizin she would invite to the Sukkah, including Israeli scientists, musicians, and leaders. Our 5th graders spent a night in the Bornblum Sukkah, making dinner, playing social games, and experiencing Sukkot as if they were in Israel.

Having arrived at a year since the war in Israel started, we were inspired by the words of Avidan Beit Yaakov, father of Captain Roe Beit Yaakov (z"l), on finding joy during these holidays. He said: "Am Yisrael is happy and will remain happy. Our memory and commemoration are rooted in joy. This is what we are fighting for – to increase the good in this world. Our happiness is about looking to the future." **HW**

Beth Sholom Welcomes Rabbi Adina Lewittes as Scholar-in-Residence Nov. 15-17



Rabbi Adina Lewittes, known for bringing fresh perspectives and creative ideas to traditional Jewish practices, will visit Beth Sholom as a scholar-in-residence November 15-17.

Rabbi Adina Lewittes, an influential voice in the reimagining and revitalization of Jewish life, will lead a week-end of learning as Scholar-in-Residence at Beth Sholom Synagogue November 15-17. Her weekend teachings will be based on the theme, “Smashing the Tablets: The Disassembling and Reassembling of Torah in Each Generation.”

“I am so grateful that our community will have the opportunity to learn Torah with Rabbi Lewittes,” says Rabbi Sarit Horwitz, the spiritual leader of Beth Sholom. “She is a very skilled teacher of Torah, and she engages beautifully with some of the biggest challenges of contemporary Jewish life, especially a life that’s rooted in the thickness of our tradition.”

Rabbi Horwitz continues, “Some of these challenges are questions that so many of us think about – how to create Jewish lives, how to navigate decisions that children are making, what it really means to look at the world in front of you and infuse your choices with a sense of Yiddishkeit.”

Teaching and a commitment to social justice and spiritual activism have defined Rabbi Lewittes’ career. She was ordained in 1993 at the Jewish Theological Seminary, becoming the first Canadian woman Conservative rabbi. She

later served as the first female assistant dean at JTS’ rabbinical school, where she currently is an adjunct lecturer in contemporary Jewish law. She also is a member of the senior rabbinic faculty at Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. From 2017 to 2020, Rabbi Lewittes served as Scholar-in-Residence at Congregation B’nai Jeshurun in New York City, where she taught Jewish ethics, modern Jewish law, Jewish holidays, and Jewish identity.

In 2002, Rabbi Lewittes founded Sha’ar, a northern New Jersey-New York City-based, values-driven Jewish community oriented around the call to societal, environmental and spiritual sustainability. For 20 years, Sha’ar provided multiple gateways into Jewish life exemplified by a commitment to inclusiveness, diversity, innovation, scholarship, excellence and collaboration.

Rabbi Lewittes currently offers programs and workshops that connect ancient texts to modern challenges through her website, AdinaLewittes.com.

The greater Memphis Jewish community will have three opportunities to learn from this remarkable Jewish thinker:

- Friday, November 15 at 6 p.m. during Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner, when Rabbi Lewittes will discuss “The Stability of Instability: Finding Sacred Ground Along an Ever-Changing Path.”

- Shabbat morning services on Saturday, November 16, when Rabbi Lewittes will deliver a sermon on “Smashing the Tablets: Disassembling and Reassembling Torah for Every Generation.”

- After Shabbat kiddush lunch, when Rabbi Lewittes will discuss the “Inter-marriage Beit Midrash,” a text-based and values-based conversation about multi-faith and multiheritage individuals, couples, and families in our communities.

The weekend is generously sponsored by the Hallie Cohen & Cindy Sotto Scholar-in-Residence Fund. For more information and to register for Friday night dinner, please visit <https://bsholom.shulcloud.com/form/rabbi-adina-lewittes-scholar-in-residence.html> **HW**

Memphis International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day

**November 23, 2024 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Church Health Community Room at Crosstown Concourse**

International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day (Survivor Day or ISOSLD) is the one day a year when people affected by suicide loss gather in their

local communities to find comfort and gain understanding as they share stories of healing and hope.

Survivor Day was created by an act

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11/7/2024

Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. November 8, 2024 / 7 Cheshvan, 5785..... 4:40 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. November 9, 2024 / 8 Cheshvan, 5785..... 5:37 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Lech-Lecha

of Congress in 1999 and since then has been sponsored and supported by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Every year, hundreds of organized events are held in the U.S. and around the world.

A local Survivor Day event will be held in Memphis on Saturday, November 23 at Church Health Community Room at Crosstown Concourse from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. To learn more about International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day,

visit afsp.org/SurvivorDay or email gcptrson@gmail.com for further details.

Registration prior to the event will be required to ensure that all attendees are prepared for and understanding of expectations related to the event.

This event is for survivors of suicide loss only with the exception of needing a support person with you during the event. If you do have a need for a support person, it will be required for that person to register as well.

This event is intended for ages 18 or above. If there is a loss survivor that would benefit from attendance under age 18, please feel free to reach out to the main organizer to discuss appropriateness.

There will be snacks, coffee and water provided.

afsp.org/SurvivorDay **HW**



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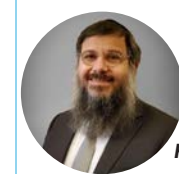
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Chabad of Memphis Unveils Course on Interpersonal Relationships

Chabad of Memphis's six-week course offers practical tools to improve family bonds, workplace dynamics, and friendships

Chabad of Memphis has announced it will host a groundbreaking six-week course, Nurturing Relationships, offering students practical wisdom for improving any interpersonal relationship. The first of six weekly sessions begins Tuesday, November 12 at The Chabad Center for Jewish Life with instructor Rabbi Levi Klein.

Developed by the globally recognized Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, Nurturing Relationships draws on 30 centuries of Jewish teaching to deliver effective, relevant tools for better connections today – from empathy, active listening, and healthy disagreement to managing reactions around flawed behavior, being a good influence and achieving forgiveness.

In a distracted age, this course offers a roadmap back to genuine human connection.

“We see too many people with plenty of friends, family, and connections still longing for more closeness in their relationships,” says Rabbi Klein. “This course gives participants effective tools they can apply to cultivate real depth and meaning in all their relationships.”

The course's six sessions combine

text-based learning with engaging discussions and real-world applications. Each week, participants examine one core relationship skill in depth and come away with a clear understanding of the topic – plus real tools they can use that same day.

“One week, participants might see what it takes to forgive a loved one after feeling betrayed,” says Rabbi Klein. “Another week, they’ll learn how to provide guidance or feedback without seeming arrogant – or how to apply active listening skills in every conversation.”

Rabbi Klein says the course invites local Jewish community members of all backgrounds to explore effective Jewish wisdom for enhanced relationships.

“Everyone is welcome; you don’t need any Jewish learning background to fully appreciate this course,” he says. “Whether you’re looking to enhance your marriage, improve workplace interactions, or get closer with friends, Nurturing Relationships is a goldmine of wisdom that works.”

For more information and to register for the course, visit www.JewishMemphis.com/JLI or call Chabad at 901-754-0404. **HW**

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

Lunch is Monday–Friday at 11:30 a.m. All programs start at 12:15 p.m. Monthly Luncheon is at noon.

Wednesday November 13
Speaker: Kevin Payne with Humana
Topic: Scams and Fraud Alerts

Kevin’s many presentations have been entertaining and filled with information that one can take home and use. This subject is one that is in the news much lately. Seniors are targeted more by scammers who are more sophisticated in their methods. A handout will be given to all participants.

Thursday, November 14
Special Art Project
Making a Challah Board sponsored by B’nai Tzedek

Paige Shainberg will lead this one-hour class that will allow the participants to make and take home their own Challah Board for Shabbat! In order to have enough supplies, reservations do need to be made by Monday, November 11, by calling the Front Desk at 901-761-0810. Please tell the person at the desk if you are coming for the lunch and art project or just the project. Please join us for this fun project.

Monday November 18
Speaker: Tim Flesner
Topic: Living the Golden Life

Tim always brings an interesting take to all his talks and makes them fun as well. Come join us for information and fun.

Wednesday, November 20
Come play Bingo with the kids!

A group of kids from the MJCC Early Childhood Department will join the seniors for a game of Bingo. This will be a lot of fun for all ages. Newcomers are welcome. Have some fun, while teaching the young ones how to play this fun and easy game.

Please join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the kitchens at Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. by contacting Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org or by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. Steve works Monday thru Thursday 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. **HW**

Glilot Truck-Ramming Probe ‘Strengthens Suspicion’ of Terror Motive

(JNS) – The Israel Police said last Tuesday night that the investigation into Sunday’s deadly truck-ramming incident in Glilot “strengthens the suspi-



The scene where a truck rammed into a bus stop near Glilot in central Israel, Oct. 27, 2024. Credit: Itai Ron/Flash90.

cion” that it was a terrorist attack. Betzalel Carmi, 72, from Rishon LeZion, was killed and 36 others wounded when an Israeli Arab resident of Qalansawe crashed into a bus full of retirees who had just gotten off an intercity tourist coach outside of an Israel Defense Forces base north of Tel Aviv.

The Tel Aviv District’s central unit launched the probe into the incident. “According to the investigation ... a police officer present near the scene at the time climbed into the truck’s cab and was attacked by the truck driver with a rod he held (as shown in the body camera footage). As seen in the video, the officer fell from the cab due to the assault and immediately fired into the air out of fear for his life. Soldiers on the scene noticed the incident, fired at the driver and neutralized him,” police said in a statement.

“Based on the investigation findings thus far and footage showing the truck being intentionally steered toward civilians, with no attempt to brake (no skid marks on the road) and allegedly even accelerating, the suspicion that the ramming, which harmed civilians, was carried out with a nationalist motive has grown stronger,” the statement continued.

Preliminary autopsy results do not indicate that the driver had suffered a medical event that could have caused the crash, police said. **HW**

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Acoustic Sunday Live! 6th Annual Benefit for Protect Our Aquifer, Set for Dec. 15

Tom Rush, Steve Forbert, Tim Easton, Shakura S'Aida, Marcella Simien and Anne Harris to perform.

Two of Memphis' greatest natural resources – water and music – come together yet again this holiday season as Acoustic Sunday Live! presents The 6th Annual Memphis Concert to Protect Our Aquifer at 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 15, at First Congregational Church, 1000 Cooper St.

Acoustic Sunday Live! has been produced by Bruce and Barbara Newman for three decades now and always for a cause. This concert will include folk icon Tom Rush, songwriters Steve

Forbert and Tim Easton, noted Canadian blues singer Shakura S'Aida, Memphis stalworth Marcella Simien, and noted Chicago violinist, Anne Harris.

The concert will feature two sets with each artist performing two songs per set, and then will end with a big finale sing along.

"I love this time of year as we are able to bring world class music together with an amazing cause like Protect Our Aquifer," Newman says. "Bring a friend and show them what this show is all about."

Formed out of necessity in 2017, Ward Archer founded Protect Our Aquifer thinking it would be a short-lived legal fight. It soon became apparent there is no entity working to protect the source of drinking water for Shelby County, Tennessee, and much of the Mid-South. Protect Our Aquifer is a 501(c)(3) non-profit with a force of citizen advocates challenging threats to the Aquifer. Since its founding, Protect Our Aquifer has become a leading voice in the science-based protection of the Aquifer and the people

that depend on it. With the new AI facility in Memphis and the Blue Oval Ford plant in Stanton, Tenn., water issues are more important to the region than ever.

"We are excited to be the beneficiary again this year," said Archer. "This concert has become our largest fundraiser and will help cover the cost of some new and exciting initiatives."

Acoustic Live Sunday! Tickets start at \$50 and are tax deductible. They can be purchased at acousticsundaylive.com **HW**

Israeli UN Envoy: UNRWA 'Payroll Resembles a Most-Wanted List'

By Mike Wagenheim

(JNS) – Israel's envoy to the United Nations last Tuesday hit back against criticism of Jerusalem's outlawing of the scandal-plagued United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Speaking at a meeting of the U.N. Security Council, Ambassador Danny Danon said, "In the last year, we have exposed UNRWA in Gaza as a terrorist front camouflaged as a humanitarian agency," adding, "Its payroll resembles a most-wanted list, rather than an aid organization."

The meeting was the Security Council's quarterly open debate on the Israeli-Palestinian file, with some 50 countries participating.

Many took Israel to task for the Knesset's passage last Monday of a pair of laws that effectively end UNRWA's presence in Israel, and strip its employees of their diplomatic privileges.

UNRWA, the U.N.'s Palestinian-only aid and social services agency, has long been accused of ties to Gazan terror organizations. A number of UNRWA staff

have been found to have participated in the Oct. 7 Hamas onslaught on Israel.

In recent weeks, UNRWA acknowledged that Fathi al-Sharif, the Hamas commander in Lebanon, killed in an Israeli airstrike, was a UNRWA school principal and chief of the UNRWA teachers' union.

Mohammad Abu Itiwi, a UNRWA driver in Gaza and a Hamas commander who was killed in an Israeli airstrike last week in a U.N. vehicle, was shown to have led a slaughter of civilians on Oct. 7, 2023, at a bomb shelter in southern Israel. Despite this, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres still referred to Abu Itiwi as a "colleague" upon his death, a sentiment Danon denounced last Tuesday.

"Abu Itiwi led his men in murdering almost all of the young people hiding in the shelter and kidnapping the survivors," Danon told the council. "A U.N. paycheck was waiting for him in his letter box when he went back to Gaza."

Danon also chastised the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, the U.N.'s peacekeeping mission along the Israeli-Lebanese border, for "neglecting its reporting obligations" for two decades, following the presentation of Israeli evidence, including that collected in the current conflict, of massive Hezbollah military presence within UNIFIL's operating area.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Washington's U.N. ambassador, was among those expressing concern at the Knesset's UNRWA legislation.

"There is no denying the fact: Some UNRWA personnel were involved in the Oct. 7 attacks," said Thomas-Greenfield.

While acknowledging steps toward reform UNRWA has taken while criticizing the slow pace of their implementation, Thomas-Greenfield called on Guterres to "create a mechanism to review and address allegations that UNRWA personnel have ties to Hamas and other terrorist groups."

At the same time, Thomas-Greenfield asserted, "there is no alternative to UNRWA when it comes to delivering food and other life-saving aid in Gaza."

Israel has insisted other U.N. agencies can step in and manage UNRWA's responsibilities.

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian Authority's U.N. envoy, told the council that Israel's new UNRWA laws constitute "a new level in this war against the U.N. and an integral part of an all-out assault on the Palestinian people."

Guterres announced he would take his concerns to the U.N. General Assembly. A knowledgeable U.N. source indicated the body is likely to take Israel to the International Court of Justice over the issue.

While ICJ rulings are generally of an advisory nature and largely ignored by Israel, ICJ decisions are binding when it comes to matters of disagreement between the United Nations and a member state over provisions of the U.N. Charter. **HW**

Abbas in Russia: Israel is a 'Colonial Project'



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas. Credit: Kremlin.ru

(JNS) – Palestinian Authority chief Mahmoud Abbas recently claimed that Israel is a "colonial project" that would be defeated if Washington withdrew its support, "Kan News" reported last Sunday, quoting Russian state media.

The "Kan News" report cited an interview that aired on Russia-1 with "Russia Today" Chief Editor Margarita Simonyan, who met Abbas on the sidelines of last week's BRICS summit, held in Kazan in central Russia.

According to Simonyan, the Palestinian leader told her over coffee, "We have an issue with the United States. They are the ones perpetrating everything. Who brought Zionism to this country? The colonizers."

The Russian propagandist added, "He kept repeating this the whole time and explained that it's America—if not for America, none of this [Israel] would exist. If America would stop supporting it, it would disappear."

Simonyan said she told Abbas that "all journalists" working at "Russia To-

"We have an issue with the United States. They are the ones perpetrating everything," the P.A. leader reportedly said.

day" "have relatives who have died and continue to die in Palestine."

When the "RT" reporter thanked Abbas for Ramallah's support for Moscow amid its war with Ukraine, he was said to have responded, "What do you mean, 'thank you'? It is our duty to support Russia."

Though the P.A. is not a member of the BRICS alliance— which was founded in 2006 by Brazil, Russia, India and China—Abbas attended the three-day summit at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In his speech, Abbas described the war launched by Israel in response to Hamas's Oct. 7, 2023, terrorist massacre as "the greatest catastrophe that the Palestinian people experienced after the Nakba ["catastrophe" of Israel's establishment] in 1948.

"This is part of a plan to empty the territory of its people, especially now in northern Gaza where the occupation forces are resorting to starving the population there," the P.A. leader claimed.

The P.A. has been a staunch supporter of Russia over the years. Earlier this year, Moscow hosted negotiations to establish a Palestinian "unity government" comprised of Abbas's Fatah party and Hamas terrorists. **HW**



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Bornblum Judaic Studies at University of Memphis presents: Unbound Offering: A talk by Dr. Daniel Oden, Wednesday, Nov 13, 7 p.m., University of Memphis, University Center, Fountain View Room 350.



Dr. Daniel Oden

Though the topic of child sacrifice figures prominently in the laws and narratives of the Hebrew Bible, there is little to no explicit connection of Genesis 22 to any text of the Hebrew Bible other than 2 Chronicles 3:1, in which Solomon’s Temple is built on Mount Moriah. Yet within Second Temple Judaism and Early Christianity, Genesis 22 invites interpretative expansions, as

these communities wrestle with the profound theological questions raised by this provocative chapter. Later Christian and Jewish interpretations, despite their differences, demonstrate continued dialogue between both communities, while maintaining within each community a pluriformity of interpretive traditions.

Daniel Oden is an associate professor

of Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East at Harding University in Searcy, Ark. Daniel earned a Bachelor of Arts in biblical languages at Lipscomb University, a Master of Arts in Religion in Biblical Studies at Westminster Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern studies at New York University. He is the editor

of “Scripture First: Biblical Interpretation that Fosters Christian Unity.”

Reception at 6:30 p.m.; talk at 7 p.m. in the University Center, Fountain View Room. You may park for a small fee in the Zach Curlin garage, or park for free along Walker Ave. For more information, contact Bornblum Judaic Studies, 901-678-2919. **HW**

Police Arrest 11 Anti-Israel Activists After Building Occupation, Vandalism at University of Minnesota



Walter Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Credit: Alexius Horatius via Wiki-media Commons.

(JNS) – Demonstrators who took control of a resident hall at the University of Minnesota last week ended up in handcuffs after law enforcement intervened, arresting 11 people.

The college issued a statement on Oct. 21 describing how a protest began on the lawn in front of Coffman Memorial Union before a group broke off and moved north into Morris Hall.

“Once inside the building, protesters began spray-painting – including covering lenses of all internal security cameras – breaking interior windows, and barricading the building’s entrance and exit points,” the college stated.

The disruptions prevented staff from leaving “with some being unable to exit the building for an extended period of time,” per the statement.

Protesters reportedly included members of UMN Students for a Democratic Society, which demands divestment from Israel, a request rejected by the university. Photos showed the doors of the building barricaded with chairs, tables and bike locks.

Rep. Jason Smith (R-Mo.) wrote on X that “this behavior is unacceptable.”

He asked, “How are Jewish students supposed to feel safe – let alone attend class – when violent, pro-Hamas mobs are allowed to seize control of university buildings, vandalize property, and terrify students and faculty?”

This past spring, the school closed certain campus buildings due to pro-Palestinian protests and pro-Hamas tent encampments. **HW**



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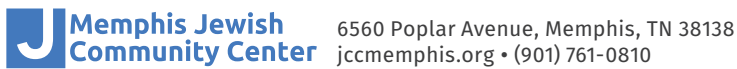
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RVW Wealth LLC Celebrates 5th Anniversary of Memphis Office with an Art Exhibit and Bourbon Tasting



Selwyn Gerber, Chairman & Chief Strategist, Jonathan Gerber, President & C.E.O. and Jesse Picunco, V.P Strategy

RVW Wealth, a leading wealth management firm originally based in Los Angeles and born from a CPA firm established in 1986, is excited to celebrate the fifth anniversary of its Memphis office. Since opening in October 2019, the office has experienced rapid growth, leading to its expansion into a third suite.

“This success reflects the warm reception and trust placed in RVW by the Memphis community, who have embraced the firm’s data-centric, evidence-based approach to portfolio design and holistic financial planning” says Selwyn Gerber CPA, founder and chief strategist. “A bespoke financial plan is developed for each client, which is the GPS system for the wealth optimization process.”

RVW Wealth will commemorate this significant milestone with a special event featuring a bourbon tasting led by world-renowned expert Doug Hopper and an art exhibit showcasing the work of acclaimed artist Jeannine Paul. The celebration will take place at the RVW offices at 1790 Kirby Parkway at Poplar, in the Forum #2 Building.

Selwyn Gerber had often visited Memphis since his daughter and son-in-law, Drs. Lindi and Ari Vanderwalde and their four children moved to Memphis 10 years ago. Since then, they have become leading members of Baron Hirsch Congregation.

“We are thrilled with the overwhelmingly positive response from the Memphis community,” said Jonathan Gerber, CPA, co-founder and president. “The rapid growth of our Memphis office exceeded our expectations, thanks to the trust our clients place in our evidence-based wealth management approach. Our team here is top-notch, and we have been able to attract and retain outstanding talent.”

“Our data-driven, holistic approach – bringing together tax minimization strategies, wealth optimization, and comprehensive financial planning – has resonated deeply in Memphis,” added Jesse Picunco, RVW Wealth CFA senior portfolio designer. “Every portfolio we design is tailored to the individual needs of our clients, ensuring that their financial goals for income, growth, and safety are fully aligned with their personal circumstances. The bottom-line orientation of CPAs brings discipline and clarity to the process.”

RVW Wealth’s success is grounded in decades of academic research and thought leadership, with strategies inspired by giants like Warren Buffett and Nobel laureates Eugene Fama and Richard Thaler.

For more information or to RSVP for the anniversary event, please contact Morgan Vickers at 901.450.4102 or email mv@RVWwealth.com **HW**

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California Protester Sentenced to Prison for Stealing, Burning Israeli Flag

(JNS) – Christopher Husary, 36, of Hayward, Calif., will spend a year behind bars for the theft and destruction of an Israeli flag during a Jan. 6 protest in nearby El Cerrito, in the northern part of the state, against the war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, a crime that was caught on video.

Judge Charles Burch sentenced Husary to 364 days in jail and two years of probation on Oct. 9, following a guilty plea to a charge of robbery with a hate-crime enhancement, set to begin on Jan. 2.

After Husary left court, he was arrested by waiting New York City police officers who alleged that while out on bail for the flag theft, the California man harassed a Jewish person riding the sub-

way on June 10.

“Everyone has the right to express their beliefs under the First Amendment, and we deeply appreciate those who bravely stood up for their rights despite attempts by the defendant to silence them,” stated Diana Becton, the district attorney in Contra Costa County in the San Francisco Bay area. “As I said when this case was filed earlier this year, the First Amendment does not protect people who threaten others, cause injury, engage in intimidation or damage property.”

Becton said that “when harmful actions are motivated by bias against a person’s race, gender, religion or national origin, it constitutes a hate crime.” **HW**

Women in Memphis to Unite for The Big Babka Bake



Women with their freshly made Babka's at a previous Chabad Babka Bake.

Chabad Women's Circle will be hosting an evening of unity for the women of the entire Memphis Jewish community. The Big Babka Bake will bring women and girls from across the community to make Babka from scratch, kneading the dough, to filling and shaping it and at the same time enjoying an evening of inspiration.

Every woman attending will receive a complimentary "The Big Babka Bake" apron and get to enjoy hot soups and a delicious assorted babka bar.

"Baking Babka is one way I connect to my heritage" said Dina Romeo. "Because everybody's bubbly baked a babka. I'm excited to be involved in this program where we will be making babka on such a grand scale, so many women at the same time."

"Women baking together in unity, has a tremendous spiritual power, and is an auspicious time to beseech G-d for blessings for all things physical, material and spiritual," explained Rivky Klein coordinator of the evening. "It is an opportune moment to pray for ourselves, our families, friends and loved ones, the people and soldiers in Israel and anyone in need of a special prayer."

Words of inspiration will be shared by Mrs. Sarah Pachter on the topic of "Building Resilience in Trying Times." Sarah is an internationally acclaimed award winning, sought after inspirational speaker and author who draws a vibrant following with her dynamic and personal approach. She has lectured internationally for the past 18 years and

spoken for many audiences around the world. She has authored two books: "Is it Ever Enough?" and "Small Choices Big Changes." She has been featured on podcasts, radio and has multiple standing columns. Her articles are featured in numerous publications including the "LA Times." Many of her articles have reached record-breaking numbers of readers and have been translated into several languages.

Sarah Pachter is also the host of the Podcast Starstruck with Sarah Pachter. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and five children.

"We are very fortunate to be able to have her come to Memphis and share with us words of motivation and empowerment," said Mrs. Klein.

"The aura of the evening will surely be sensational, I am so looking forward to The Big Babka Bake and can't wait to be able to make Babka with so many friends," commented Tamar Cantora.

The covert for each person is \$30, which includes all supplies and a customized "The Big Babka Bake" apron. Sponsorships are available. All sponsors will receive a signed book by Sarah.

"Please come and join us, it will be an evening you will cherish," concluded Mrs. Klein.

The Big Babka Bake will be held on Sunday, November 17 at 7 p.m. at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life. You can register yourself or your group at www.jewishmemphis.com/Babka or by calling Rivky Klein at 901-219-7004. **HW**

X Suspends Khamenei's New Hebrew-Language Account

(JNS) – Social media platform X last Sunday suspended an official account of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, one day after it was created.

The suspension of the @Khamenei_Heb account came shortly after it featured the tweet: "The Zionist regime made a mistake. It erred in its calculations on Iran. We will cause it to understand what kind of strength, ability, initiative, and will the Iranian nation has."

The tweet appeared to be a reference to Israel's Oct. 26 retaliation for the Islamic Republic's Oct. 1 ballistic missile attack.

X is owned by Elon Musk, who has expressed support of Israel. He visited Israel in November and attended Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech in Congress in July. He is also

The suspension followed a tweet in which the Iranian leader claimed that "the Zionist regime made a mistake."

on record as advocating free speech on X and in general.

X did not immediately say why it suspended Khamenei's account. The notice about the suspension referred readers to a text on X's website that explains that suspended accounts were "found to be in violation of our rules," which prohibit "violent and hateful entities." **HW**

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Eight Great Investing Quotes

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors

Questions for Mike? You can reach him at 901.761.8151 or Michael.Stein@WellsFargoAdvisors.com

fa.wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael-stein

Investing can be daunting, whether you are experienced or a beginner. Even if you feel confident about your investing strategy, it can be easy to lose focus or make decisions based on emotion. Here are eight quotes from successful investors, economists, and other insightful thinkers that may help provide perspective and focus for your own investing strategy.

“The individual investor should act consistently as an investor and not as a speculator.”¹

— Benjamin Graham, investor, author, and teacher known as the “father of value investing.” A speculator takes large risks in the hopes of making large quick gains. An investor focuses on risk-appropriate strategies to pursue long-term goals.

“Don’t try to buy at the bottom and sell at the top. It can’t be done except by liars.”²

— Bernard Baruch, investor and presidential adviser. Trying to time the market may be tempting, but it rarely works, because no one really knows when the market has reached its top or bottom.

“If you aren’t willing to own a stock for 10 years, don’t even think about owning it for 10 minutes.”³

— Warren Buffett, investor, businessman, and philanthropist. Buffett, a former student of Benjamin Graham, is perhaps the most famous proponent of patient “buy and hold” investing.

“Take measured risk.”⁴

— Doris P. Meister, investment manager and business leader. All investing involves risk, but risk can be managed

through careful research and proven strategies such as asset allocation and diversification.

“Regardless of what happens in the markets, stick to your investment program. Changing your strategy at the wrong time can be the single most devastating mistake you can make as an investor.”⁵

— John Bogle, investor and mutual fund industry pioneer. A sound investment strategy should be designed to carry you through market ups and downs.

“Know what you own, and know why you own it.”⁶

— Peter Lynch, investment manager, author, and philanthropist. Your portfolio should be assembled with an eye toward meeting your long-term financial goals, not by rushing to own the “flavor of the month.”

“Investing should be more like watching paint dry or watching grass grow. If you want excitement, take \$800 and go to Las Vegas.”⁷

— Paul Samuelson, 1970 Nobel laureate in economic sciences. Investors often make poor decisions when they are driven by adrenaline; patience is more likely to produce positive results in the long run.

“Compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. He who understands it, earns it ... he who doesn’t ... pays it.”⁸

— Albert Einstein, 1921 Nobel laureate in physics. Even though this and similar quotes are often attributed to Einstein, it’s uncertain whether he ever said them. Either way, it’s true that one

of the most powerful tools for investors is reinvesting interest, dividends, and capital gains.

There is no guarantee that any investing strategy will be successful. All investments are subject to market fluctuation, risk, and loss of principal. When sold, they may be worth more or less than their original cost. Investments seeking to achieve higher returns also involve a higher degree of risk. Asset allocation and diversification are methods used to help manage investment risk; they do not guarantee a profit or protect against investment loss.

1, 6, 7) Investopedia, September 15, 2023
2, 5) BrainyQuote, accessed March 28, 2024

3, 8) Goodreads, accessed March 28, 2024
4) U.S. News & World Report, March 11, 2024

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IDF Kills Deputy Commander of Hezbollah’s Radwan Force

Mustafa Ahmad Shakhadi managed the terror unit’s combat operations in Southern Lebanon.

(JNS) – The IDF announced last Wednesday that Mustafa Ahmad Shakhadi, deputy commander of Hezbollah’s Radwan Force, had been killed in an Israeli airstrike near Nabatieh in Southern Lebanon.

The IDF emphasized that his removal from the battlefield “further impairs the Radwan Force’s ability to function and carry out terror activities against IDF forces and the Israeli civilian front along the northern border, specifically its plan to seize the Galilee.”

Shakhadi in his previous roles was responsible for Radwan operations during the Syria conflict from 2012 to 2017, and also managed the unit’s combat operations in Southern Lebanon.

“The Radwan Force is Hezbollah’s elite unit, aimed at infiltrating Israeli territory and capturing areas near the northern border,” the military said. “The IDF will continue to act against Hezbollah terrorists and commanders and to thwart any threat facing Israeli citizens.” **HW**

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'Sandal-Wearing Fighters to Rock Stars' – The Rising Houthi Threat



Houthis protest against airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition on Sanaa in September 2015. Credit: Henry Ridgwell/VOA via Wikimedia Commons.

By **Miri Weissman**

(JNS) – Israel’s recent strikes against Iran’s regional allies have done little to deter Yemen’s Houthi forces, which have emerged as an increasingly significant player in the widening Middle East conflict, according to U.S. officials and analysts, the “Wall Street Journal” reports.

While Israeli operations have targeted the leadership of Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, including strikes on Iranian missile facilities, the Houthis have continued launching attacks on shipping in the Red Sea. The group has targeted over 80 commercial vessels with drones and missiles since the outbreak of the Gaza war, disrupting global trade routes.

“One of the unfortunate offshoots of the Gaza conflict is... that the Houthis have doubled down on their contacts with other malign actors in the region and beyond,” U.S. special envoy for

Yemen Timothy Lenderking said. He described the trend as “very alarming.”

The Yemen-based group has avoided the fate of other Iran-backed forces. Israeli strikes killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, who orchestrated the Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel. Meanwhile, the Houthis have leveraged the Gaza conflict to boost their standing.

“The Houthis have morphed from sandal-wearing fighters to rock stars. These are people who [terrorists] want to be associated with right now,” said Michael Knights, co-founder of the Militia Spotlight platform, which studies Iran-backed groups in the Middle East.

The group’s rise from local force to regional power is documented in a recent United Nations report, which found evidence of Houthi cooperation with various armed groups. The report cited joint operations centers in Iraq and Leb-

anon aimed at coordinating actions of Iran-backed groups.

Lenderking noted “quite extensive” cooperation between the Houthis and Somalia’s al-Shabaab group, saying they are discussing ways to “menace and threaten freedom of navigation in the Red Sea.”

The U.N. report also revealed agreements between the Houthis and al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula regarding weapons transfers and potential joint operations against the internationally recognized Yemeni government in Aden.

Russia’s involvement has added another dimension to the situation. Viktor Bout, the Russian arms dealer exchanged for U.S. basketball star Brittney Griner, is attempting to sell assault rifles to the Houthis. Moscow has provided targeting data for Red Sea attacks and is considering supplying anti-ship missiles to the group.

A Russian warship evacuated Iran’s missile and drone program commander in Yemen, Abdul Reza Shahlai, from Hodeida port in April, according to a Western security official. The U.S. has offered \$15 million for Shahlai, who is accused of plotting to assassinate the Saudi ambassador in Washington and planning an attack targeting U.S. civilians.

Despite U.S. retaliatory strikes, including an Oct. 16 operation using B-2 Spirit bombers targeting underground weapons sites, the Houthis have maintained their capabilities. While Israel has conducted some strikes against the group, it has largely left confrontation to Western allies.

Originally published by “Israel Hayom.” HW

OBITUARIES



Rita Marlene Jaffe

Rita Marlene Jaffe, beloved sister of Jeri Mincer, passed away peacefully at her home on October 26. A graduate of East High School, Rita went on to attend both the University of Texas and the University of Alabama, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration. She is survived by her sister, Jeri, along with her two nieces, Kimberly Caldwell and Blair Billings, and her three great-nieces, Jessica Lenahan, Clair Caldwell and Rachel Caldwell, as well as her great-nephew, Reed Billings.

Rita was deeply loved and will be truly missed by all who knew her. **HW**

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Remembering Rabbi Avi Goldberg (z"l)

By Rabbi Gavriel Brown, MHA/FYOS Head of School

As early college application season draws to a close, I've been surrounded by the hum of students perfecting their resumes, refining every detail of their achievements. They've polished their essays on leadership and academics and then polished them again. They look great. These are the "resume virtues" – skills, awards, accolades, and successes, crafted to show what they can do, their worth in the marketplace. They're necessary, of course. They open doors to what our ambitious seniors want to become: doctors and politicians, engineers and psychologists.

But then a week like this one arrives. A week marked by loss, sacrifice, and the sudden fragility of life. We closed out the high holiday season on a high note – only to be brought down so low. We learned of the death of Rabbi Avi Goldberg, HYD, superstar teacher and *chayal* (soldier) and, of course, a one-of-a-kind *shaliach* (emissary) to our Memphis community.

Surrounded by this news, resume virtues fall away, and I find myself considering the "obituary virtues" – the qualities of character that define how we live and how we'll be remembered. These virtues aren't polished or rehearsed. They're about the lives we touch, the depth of our kindness, the strength of our moral integrity. They are the relationships we leave in the world, visible only when we're no longer here to speak for ourselves.

I did not know Rabbi Goldberg. Neither did our MHA-FYOS students. He left as our current seniors were in our early childhood program. But with just a few hours' notice, hundreds gathered for a memorial to him on Sunday night. I learned so much about his incredible life and his enduring friendships in Memphis. He came to Memphis with

his clarinet and his passion for Jewish education and community. He left with two Memphis-born children and a community far more connected to Israel, to *shira*, song, and to *simcha*, joy.

In the years that followed, as he embedded himself in schools in Jerusalem, he kept in close contact with our alumni and their families. The magic of WhatsApp voice notes kept the Goldbergs in touch with Tennessee families more than a decade after they returned to Israel. The Goldbergs were mega-hosters, always opening the door for our graduates and their families during their years in Israel. When some of those alumni stayed in Israel for national service, their home became our Memphians' home away from home. He was always serving others.

I thought of this when I remembered a conversation shared just before Rosh Hashanah. A friend in Israel, all-too familiar with the cost of sacrifice, shared that as we say, "*U-teshuva, u-tefila, u-tzedaka ma'avirin et ro-a ha-gezera*" – repentance, prayer, and charity remove the harsh decree – this year, we should add one more phrase: "*u'mesirat nefesh*" – self-sacrifice. It's a phrase that has no direct English translation, and yet it holds within it the essence of what it means to be truly good.

Mesirat nefesh is a willingness to give up everything for a cause greater than oneself. It's not the kind of virtue you find on a resume or in a list of accomplishments. It's the virtue that shines quietly, unnoticed, in moments when no one is watching. And it is the secret to a life well-lived, a life that transcends the noise of the world's praise and accolades.

In reflecting on Rabbi Avi Goldberg's life, I realize he was a man who exemplified these obituary virtues. He was



Rabbi Avi Goldberg, 3rd adult from left



Rabbi Avi Goldberg, back row far right

not defined by the titles he held or the accolades he gathered but by his willingness to step forward, to sacrifice, to serve. He was the kind of person who, without ever needing to say it, showed us that the true measure of a life is not in its accomplishments but in its *mesirut nefesh*, in the ways we quietly and steadfastly serve others.

In a week filled with reflection and grief, I am reminded that the lives we touch, the kindness we extend, and the sacrifices we make for others are what will define us. It's a lesson I hope our

students carry with them, even as they strive for the best in their colleges and careers. Because, in the end, the real question isn't what we've accomplished – it's who we've become.

May we all be inspired to cultivate the kind of life Rabbi Goldberg led, a life filled with compassion, generosity, and an unwavering commitment to others. May his memory be a blessing, a guide, and a call to each of us to live with *mesirut nefesh*, to be there for others, and to leave the world better for our having been here. **HW**

Haftarat Parshat Noach: Lessons from the Prophets in Consolation and Resilience

By Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Brander

Dedicated to Captain Rabbi Avraham Goldberg zt"l, a loving husband and father, a gifted educator and Rav, a man of great integrity and values, a musician that uplifted the soul, and a person who inspired all who engaged with him. We will continue to live his vision and work to ensure his light continues to shine.

Three thousand years later, what can the prophets still teach us today?

As we start another cycle of Torah readings, we also have an opportunity to revisit the Haftarat – selections from the books of the prophets carefully chosen by our sages to complement each week's Torah reading. The Talmud (Megilla 14a) notes that although the prophets produced many texts, only those messages relevant for future generations were incorporated into the canonized Tanach (Hebrew Bible). So, as we read these Haftarat, we can reflect on the timeless themes they present and consider how both the prophets' messages and the sages' choices resonate with new meaning in our generation.

Since this Shabbat falls on the first day of the Hebrew month of MarCheshvan, we read along with our weekly portion, Noah, the Haftarah for Shabbat Rosh Chodesh, which is taken from the closing of the book of Yeshayahu (Isaiah 66:1-24). As we read the prophet's poignant words of consolation after the destruction of Jerusalem, we cannot help but be reminded of where we were just one year ago. During those horrific days in the aftermath of Oct. 7, the cemeteries worked relentlessly as each and everybody was identified, families were notified, and burials arranged non-

stop. It was a period of non-stop shiva, with one family after another sitting in mourning – many in temporary lodging, far from the places they call home. Unfortunately, while the rate of the loss has thank God slowed, we still face the painful, ongoing sacrifice of the most heroic amongst our people.

Thus in these times, Yishayahu's prophecy offers a comforting vision, assuring that God will bring solace to those who grieve for the struggles of Jerusalem. That the sounds of rejoicing will once again fill the streets of Jerusalem. Yet the text points out that only those who empathize with Israel's hardships will merit this shared joy that will eventually resonate throughout the land. The Talmud (Megilla 30b) underscores this idea through Yishayahu's words of this week's haftarah, "rejoice with [Jerusalem] all who mourn for her." (66:10).

This idea of the need to empathize with and really feel the hardships of the Jewish people is something I find myself reflecting on often today, especially when I travel outside of Israel. Often, I am moved by the extent to which some Diaspora communities embrace the current hardships in Israel, holding events to raise hope for and awareness of the hostages still in Gaza; learning in the merit of fallen soldiers; sending delegations to volunteer. But other times, I find it troubling that on my trips abroad, I meet Jews both observant and unaffiliated who appear to be disconnected from Israel's current challenges. For me it is both painful and disturbing to witness the celebration of lifecycle or religious events in which there is no pause, no mention of the sac-

rifices occurring in Israel. Although these events may include strictly kosher food and Jewish ritual, the atmosphere feels distant from the Jewish spirit.

If we have any hope of finding our way towards collective solace, we must first share in one another's pain and recognize the grief we have held together for over a year. The weight of this grief remains with families who continue to move forward with courage, as well as with those who have more recently joined this painful "club" of which no one wants to be a member.

Whether at funerals, shivas, one-year memorial services for fallen soldiers or those murdered in Israel's South, I find myself surrounded by heroes who embody the words of the prophets. After 2000 years in diaspora, they truly "rejoice with Jerusalem," are glad for her, and indeed love her – even when the price for that devotion demands the ultimate sacrifice, losing the one you personally love most in the world. I am confident that we are living in the dawn of the Messianic era, though we recognize that the journey is long and that our final redemption comes at the unbearable cost of losing the most sacred souls amongst us. This paradox defines our situation: we can participate in the jubilation of an independent, prosperous Israel while deeply mourning precious lives, such as our friend, our former student, our rabbi, Avi Goldberg, who served with his wife, Rachel, as a shaliach in Memphis, after completing training at Ohr Torah Stone's Straus-Amiel Rabbinical Emissary Institute. He is one of the holiest amongst us.

The Haftarah offers us a pathway towards how to ensure that we never lose sight of our shared destiny. The prophet declares that, "Like one whom a mother comforts, so I will comfort you, and in Jerusalem you shall find comfort" (ibid. 66:13). This compassionate verse imagines God as a loving parent, speaking in intimate, individual personal consolation. Yet it also speaks in the very same breath of the broader consolation found in the restoration of Jerusalem. It is from this verse that we derive the tradition of the "Hamakom" greeting used during shiva visits, comforting mourners not only for their personal loss, but also in solidarity with all who grieve for Zion and Jerusalem. This shows how closely our personal grief is interwoven with our collective story, grounding us in a shared identity and purpose.

In fact, the next verse in the Haftarah – (66:14): "You shall see and your heart shall rejoice, Your limbs shall flourish like grass [GOD's power shall be revealed]" – was etched into the Western Wall generations ago by a visitor. It, too, stands as a reminder that our hope for consolation is not just individual, but shared. As we grieve together, we also pray that we will one day rejoice together, witnessing a renewal that reaches from each mourning heart to the entire nation. May we see that day soon; a time when Jerusalem's streets once again resound with joy, and our shared pain transforms into collective strength – and peace.

Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Brander is president and Rosh HaYeshiva of Ohr Torah Stone, a network of 32 educational institutions in Israel. **HW**

At 'Emergency Session' on Israel's Attack on Iran, UN Security Council Splits Along Traditional Fault Lines



Danny Danon, Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, addresses the U.N. Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East on Oct. 28, 2024. Credit: Evan Schneider/U.N. Photo.

By Mike Wagenheim

(JNS) – Iran will suffer “severe consequences” if the Islamic Republic continues to attack Israel or U.S. troops across the Middle East, Washington said during a contentious United Nations Security Council meeting last Monday afternoon.

The emergency session—which Algeria, China and Russia called—addressed the impact of Israel’s retaliatory attacks on Iranian military targets over last weekend, in response to Tehran’s barrage of some 200 ballistic missiles on Israel earlier in the month.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the U.S. ambassador to the global body, told the Security Council that Washington, which

doesn’t want to see further escalation, believes “this should be the end of the direct exchange of fire between Israel and Iran.” But the United States “will not hesitate to act in self defense,” she said.

Iran accused the Biden administration of complicity in Israel’s weekend assault, which reportedly degraded Tehran’s missile production capabilities significantly. Washington has said many times that it played no role in the Israeli operation.

Iran “seeks to gaslight and deflect, to claim the role of victim, while continuing to sow chaos across the region,” Thomas-Greenfield said. She demanded

that Tehran “stop pouring gasoline on the fire of regional conflict.”

Danny Danon, the Israeli U.N. ambassador, reminded the council that Jerusalem “promised” that Iran’s direct attack on Israel—its second in five months—“would not go unanswered.”

“We assured them that we would choose the time and manner of our response, and that it would be painful,” Danon said. “Those promises are being kept.”

Danon stressed that the precise military targeting of the attack on Iran was meant to inflict minimal civilian damage. The Security Council’s “usual chorus of ‘de-escalation’ is not only weak, but profoundly misguided,” he said, and results in “failure to impose real cost” on the Iranian regime.

The Israeli envoy told the Security Council to impose “crippling sanctions” on Iran’s military and economic infrastructure and issued a “warning” to Iranian leadership that “any further aggression will be met with consequences that are swift and decisive.”

Amir Saeid Irvani, Iran’s U.N. ambassador, said that the Islamic Republic has the “inherent right to respond at a time of its choosing to this act of aggression.”

Irvani stated that the Oct. 1 attack on Israel was retaliation for the assassinations of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps general Abbas Nilforoushan in Beirut, as well as Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Hezbollah and Hamas are among

Iran’s terrorist proxies, receiving training and funding from Tehran.

Irvani called Israel’s assassinations of terror leaders “part of a broader, sustained pattern of aggression and unchecked impunity with which Israel continues to destabilize the entire region.”

Much of the rest of the Security Council was split along traditional fault lines. Barbara Woodward, the United Kingdom’s U.N. envoy, called for Iran to stand down, saying that “all sides must exercise restraint. No good can come of pouring more fuel on the flames of this escalating cycle of violence.”

Vassily Nebenzia, the Russian U.N. ambassador, took shots at both Israel and the United States.

“Jerusalem is not ready to give up on its choice to resolve all of its conflict situations with neighbors exclusively by force,” Nebenzia said, claiming that Israel’s “determination to act that way” is due to “the support and cover from American allies.”

Fu Cong, China’s U.N. ambassador, told the United States “to put saving lives and preventing war” first, by backing the calls of other Security Council members for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and ramping down fighting between Israel and Hezbollah on Israel’s northern border.

Abbas Kadhim Obaid, the Iraqi envoy to the United Nations, condemned Israel’s unauthorized use of Iraqi airspace to strike Iran. Baghdad sent a missile earlier in the day to the Security Council complaining about what it said was a violation of its sovereignty. **HW**

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